Numb. 150

The TATLER.

By *Iſaac Bickerſtaff* Eſq;

Hæc ſunt Jucundi Cauſa, Cibuſq; Mali. Ovid.

From *Thurſday March* 23. to *Saturday March* 25. 1710.

From my own Apartment, March 24.

I Have received the following Letter upon the Subject of my laſt Paper. The Writer of it tells me, I there ſpoke of Marriage as one that knows it only by Speculation, and for that Reaſon he ſends me his Senſe of it, as drawn from Experience.

Mr. *Bickerſtaff*,

I Have read your Paper of this Day, and think you have done the Nuptial State a great deal of Juſtice in the Authority you give us of *Pliny*, whoſe Letters to his Wife you have there tranſlated: But give me Leave to tell you, That it is impoſſible for you, that are a Batchelor, to have ſo juſt a Notion of this Way of Life, as to touch the Affections of your Readers in a Particular, wherein every Man's own Heart ſuggeſts more than the niceſt Obſerver can form to himſelf without Experience. I therefore, who am an old married Man, have ſat down to give you an Account of the Matter from my own Knowledge, and the Obſervations which I have made upon the Conduct of others in that moſt agreeable or wretched Condition.

'It is very commonly obſerved, That the moſt ſmart Pangs which we meet with are in the Beginning of Wedlock, which proceed from Ignorance of each other's Humour, and Want of Prudence to make Allowances for a Change from the moſt careful Reſpect, to the moſt unbounded Familiarity. Hence it ariſes, That trifles are commonly Occaſions of the greateſt Anxiety; for Contradiction being a Thing wholly unuſual between a new married Couple, the ſmalleſt Inſtance of it is taken for the higheſt Injury; and it very ſeldom happens, that the Man is ſlow enough in aſſuming the Character of an Huſband, or the Woman quick enough in condeſcending to that of a Wife. It immediately follows, that they think they have all the Time of their Courtſhip been talking in Maſks to each other, and therefore begin to act like diſappointed People. *Philander* finds *Delia* ill-natur'd and impertinent; and *Delia*, *Philander* ſurly and inconſtant.

'I have known a fond Couple quarrel in the very Honey-moon about cutting up a Tart: Nay, I could name Two, who after having had Seven Children, fell out and parted Beds upon the boiling of a Leg of Mutton. My very next Neighbours have not ſpoke to one another theſe Three Days, becauſe they differ'd in their Opinions, whether the Clock ſhould ſtand by the Window, or over the Chimney. It may ſeem ſtrange to you, who are not a married Man, when I tell you, how the leaſt Trifle can ſtrike a Woman dumb for a Week together. But if you ever enter into this State, you will find, that the Soft Sex as often expreſs their Anger by an obſtinate Silence, as by an ungovernable Clamour.

'Thoſe indeed who begin this Courſe of Life without Jars at their ſetting out, arrive within few Months at a Pitch of Benevolence and Affection, of which the moſt perfect Friendſhip is but a feint Reſemblance. As in the unfortunate Marriage, the moſt minute and indifferent Things are Objects of the ſharpeſt Reſentment; ſo in an happy one, they are Occaſions of the moſt exquiſite Satisfaction. For what does not oblige in one we love? What does not offend in one we diſlike? For theſe Reaſons I take it for a Rule, That in Marriage, the chief Buſineſs is to acquire a Prepoſſeſſion in Favour of each other. They ſhould conſider one another's Words and Actions with a ſecret Indulgence: There ſhould be always an inward Fondneſs pleading for each other, ſuch as may add new Beauties to every Thing that is excellent, give Charms to what is indifferent, and cover every Thing that is defective. For want of this kind Propenſity and Biaſs of Mind, the married Pair often take Things ill of each other, which no one elſe would take Notice of in either of them.

'But the moſt unhappy Circumſtance of all is, where each Party is always laying up Fuel for Diſſention, and gathering together a Magazine of Provocations to exaſperate each other with when they are out of Humour. Theſe People in common Diſcourſe make no Scruple to let thoſe who are by know they are quarrelling with one another, and think they are diſcreet enough, if they conceal from the Company the Matters which they are hinting at. About a Week ago, I was entertained for a whole Dinner with a myſterious Converſation of this Nature; out of which I could learn no more, than that the Husband and Wife were angry at one another. We had no ſooner ſat down, but, ſays the Gentleman of the Houſe, in order to raiſe Diſcourſe, I thought *Margarita* ſung extremely well laſt Night. Upon this, ſays the Lady, looking as pale as Aſhes, I ſuppoſe ſhe had Cherry-coloured Ribands on.

'No,

'No, answered the Husband, with a Flush in his 'Face, but she had Laced Shoes. I look upon it, 'that a Stander-by on such Occasions has as much 'Reason to be out of Countenance as either of the 'Combatants. To turn off my Confusion, and 'seem regardless of what had passed, I desired the 'Servant who attended to give me the Vinegar, 'which unluckily created a new Dialogue of 'Hints; for as far as I could gather by the subse-'quent Discourse, they had dissented the Day be-'fore about the Preference of Elder to Wine-Vine-'gar. In the midst of their Discourse, there ap-'peared a Dish of Chickens and Sparagrass, when 'the Husband seemed disposed to lay aside all Dis-'putes; and looking upon her with a great deal 'of good Nature, said, Pray, my Dear, will you 'help my Friend to a Wing of the Fowl that lies 'next you, for I think it looks extremely well. The 'Lady, instead of answering him, addressing her self 'to me, Pray, Sir, said she, do you in *Surrey* reckon 'the white or the black Legged Fowls the best? 'I found the Husband changed Colour at the 'Question; and before I could answer, asked me, 'Whether we did not call Hops Broom in our 'Country? I quickly found, they did not ask Que-'stions so much out of Curiosity as Anger: For 'which Reason I thought fit to keep my Opinion 'to my self, and, as an honest Man ought, (when 'he sees Two Friends in Warmth with each other) 'I took the first Opportunity I could to leave them 'by themselves.

'You see, Sir, I have laid before you only small 'Incidents, which are seemingly trivial; but take 'it from a Man who am very well experienced in 'this State, they are principally Evils of this Nature 'which make Marriages unhappy. At the same Time, 'that I may do Justice to this excellent Institution, 'I must own to you, there are unspeakable Plea-'sures which are as little regarded in the Compu-'tation of the Advantages of Marriage, as the o-'thers are in the usual Survey that is made of its 'Misfortunes.

'*Lovemore* and his Wife live together in the 'happy Possession of each other's Hearts, and by that 'Means have no indifferent Moments, but their 'whole Life is one continued Scene of Delight. 'Their Passion for each other communicates a cer-'tain Satisfaction, like that which they themselves 'are in, to all that approach them. When she en-'ters the Place where he is, you see a Pleasure 'which he cannot conceal, nor he or any one else 'describe. In so consummate an Affection, the 'very Presence of the Person beloved, has the 'Effect of the most agreeable Conversation. Whe-'ther they have Matter to talk of or not, they 'enjoy the Pleasures of Society, and at the same 'Time the Freedom of Solitude. Their ordinary 'Life is to be preferred to the happiest Moments of 'other Lovers. In a Word, they have each of 'them great Merit, live in the Esteem of all who 'know them, and seem but to comply with the 'Opinions of their Friends in the just Value they 'have for each other.

Advertisements.

*** PROPOSALS for Printing the LUCUBRATIONS of Isaac Bickerstaff Esq; by Subscriptions, in Two Volumes in Octavo, on a Large Character, and Fine Royal Paper, are to be seen, and Subscriptions taken, at Charles Lillie's, a Perfumer, at the Corner of Beauford-Buildings in the Strand, and John Morphew's near Stationers-Hall. All Persons that design to subscribe to this Work, are desired to send their Subscriptions with all Expedition, the Book being put to Press, in order to have it publish'd before Easter.

ON Friday the 31st of this Instant March, in the Great Room in York-Buildings, will be perform'd, a Consort of Musick for the Benefit of Mr. Viner.

ON Wednesday next, the 29th Instant, in the Great Room in York-Buildings, will be performed a Consort of Vocal and Instrumental Musick, for the Benefit of Signiora Maria Galli Saggione. Tickets to be had at White's Chocolate-house, and the Smyrna Coffee-house.

TO satisfy Gentlemen and Ladies who it is that would impose, in Relation to those Men and Women's Gowns to be sold at the Olive-Tree and Still at Charing-Cross; advertis'd against in the Post-Man, with Invitation to Ludgate-Hill; If they please to enquire at any Shop on the said Hill, they may be satisfy'd that there is not a Quarter of the Choice, as there is in the Room at Charing-Cross; nor can they afford so good Pennyworths, because upon Examination, these will be truly found to be the Goods of Persons that failed.

*** On Monday next will be published, Bibliotheca Anatomica, &c. containing a Description of the several Parts of the Body; Each done by some one or more Eminent Physician or Chirurgeon; with their Diseases and Cures. Illustrated with several Hundred Figures, done by the best Artists, and from the truest Designs, as appears by the Names to each Figure. This Fifth for March contains several Tracts of the Bones, with a large Plate, containing many Figures of the Bones of young Infants, &c. done by Kerkringius, &c. Printed by J. Nutt in the Savoy, and sold by J. Morphew near Stationers-Hall. Where may be had the preceding Months. Also Atlas Geographus for February, and compleat Sets of them.

*** This Day is publish'd, A Defence of the Book of Psalms, collected into English Metre by Thomas Sternhold, John Hopkins, and others; with critical Observations on the late new Version compared with the old. Price 1 s. 4 d. bound in Calf, and 1 s. in Sheep. Good-Friday to be kept by all Christians, and the Manner of keeping it, on Zech. 12. 10. Price 2 d. or 12 s. per Hundred to those that give them away. The Wisdom of being Holy, in 2 Parts. Price 6 d. Submission to Governors, or the Doctrine of St. Peter concerning Government. Price 2 d. All writ by Will. Beveridge, D. D. late Lord Bp. of St. Asaph. Printed for R. Smith at his Ware-house in Exeter Change in the Strand; and sold by W. Taylor at the Ship in Pater-noster-Row. At either of which Places may be had the said Bishop's English Works, in 9 Volumes. Price 2 l. 2 s. 6 d.

*** A new Set of Maps of two Sheets of Imperial Paper, with curious Ornaments, and 3 new Sizes of Globes, either of 16 Inches Diameter, 12 or 3, for the Pocket; the Stars laid down from the Observations of Mr. Halley, Professor of Geometry at Oxon, and Mr. Heuelius of Dantzick; and have 19 Constellations more than any other hitherto published: Done by J. Senex and C. Price. These, with most other Maps, and all sorts of Mathematical Instruments, and many other Curiosities, are sold by T. Brandreth and G. Wildey, at the Archimedes and Globe next the Dog Tavern in Ludgate-street; a Pair of large Globes being on the Post before the Door.

*** On Monday next begins the third Volume of the British Apollo. And whereas the Labour is increased by greater Numbers of Questions sent, occasioned by the great increase of Subscribers, Two Gentlemen of the Royal Society will add their Assistance, and two young Gentlemen from Oxford theirs also in the humorous Parts.

*** For the further Improvement of Dancing; A Treatise of Corography, or the Art of dancing Country-Dances after a new Character. In which the Figures, Steps, and Manner of Performing, are describ'd; and the Rules demonstrated in an easie Method, adapted to the meanest Capacity. Translated from the French of Monsieur Feuillet, and improved with many Additions; all fairly engraved on Copper Plates: And a new Collection of Country-Dances describ'd in the same Character, by John Essex, Dancing-Master. Sold by J. Walsh, and P. Randall, Musical Instrument-Makers in Ordinary to Her Majesty, at the Harp and Hautboy in Catherine-street near Somerset House in the Strand; and J. Hare, at the Viol and Flute in Cornhill; J. Cullen at the Roebuck without Temple-Bar; and by the Author at his House in Roode-Lane, Fenchurch-street. Price 5 s.

*** Field's Bible, and all other Sorts and Sizes of Bibles and Common-Prayers, fit for Churches and Families, ruled or unruled, and in all sorts of Binding, viz. Right Shagreen, red and blue Turkey, Russia-Leather, &c. Mr. Sturt's Cuts, curiously engraven; with all other Sorts of Cuts, either for Bibles or Common Prayer Books; the Sacrament and Devotion, bound with the Crimmon Prayer or single; Tate and Brady's new Psalms, with the new Supplement; Burket on the New Testament, in Folio, the 4th and last Edition; the Lord Clarendon's History of the Rebellion, &c. Winchester Manual; a new British Spelling-Book; Young's Spelling-Book; and Dr. Williams and Lewis's Catechism, for the Use of Charity-Schools, by Wholesale or Retale, at reasonable Rates. Cases for Letters or Bills. Stains and Ink are likewise taken out of Books of Value, and Books neatly bound and gilt, by J. Hazard at the Golden Bible in Stationers-Court near the Hall within Ludgate.

AN House on the West Side of Kensington Square, the third from the North Corner, Two Rooms upon a Floor, and Four Stories high, with large light Closets, Vaults, and other Conveniencies, is to be lett. Enquire as directed by the Bill upon the Door.

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